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This afternoon shortly after 1400 Cuban news broadcasts carried reports of heavy antiaircraft fire directed ~~at~~ from Cuban installations against "aggressor aircraft."

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Soviet Bloc Shipping to Cuba

No change except 2 new ships en route.

None of the six Soviet ships previously reported enroute Cuba have
according to latest information.
turned back. Two of the Satellite ships reported enroute are now in Cuban

waters and the third, the Czech Kladno, appears to be still enroute.

Liechansk which

Furthermore another Soviet tanker/passed Istanbul declaring for Cuba on

the 25th October, must be assumed still enroute until further information

is received. This also holds true of the Soviet dry cargo frieghter

on 26 October

Michurinsk which passed the Kiel Canal/declared for Cuba from Leningrad,

report of which was received today.

153 210.7

Summary as of 1520, 24 Oct.

BRITISH WORLD - Responsible Foreign Office officials now feel that Khrushchev has demonstrated in Cuba a willingness they had not previously suspected to take much greater military risks in advancing his political objectives. In their view, the Soviet missile buildup in Cuba was geared to Khrushchev's intention to provoke a Berlin showdown later this year. However, Khrushchev may not have anticipated the vigorous US response, and this probably accounts for the signs of indecision in Moscow since last Monday. A Foreign Office assessment that the Soviet decision to send missiles to Cuba reflected concern over the balance in the strategic situation and a desire to redress this quickly and relatively cheaply [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

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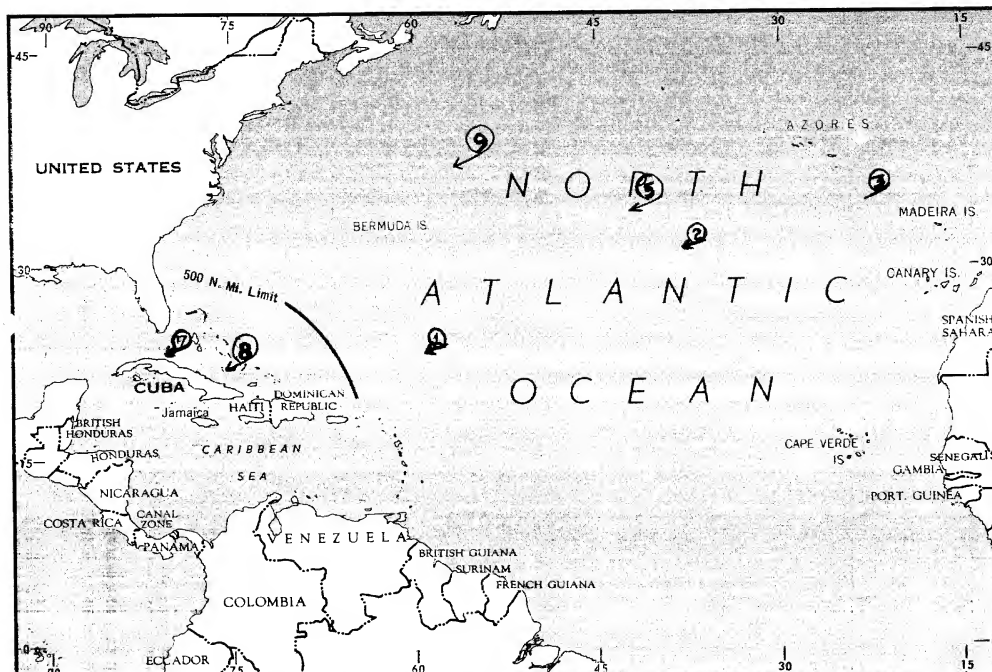
[REDACTED] Foreign Secretary Lord Home is reported by the press today to have told the Soviet chargé that Britain considers Moscow responsible for the present dangerous situation, and after the buildup in Cuba is halted, London wants the missile bases promptly dismantled. Khrushchev's offer to swap bases is reported to have been received with intense interest in diplomatic quarters in London, ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ and the message is said to have been seen as bringing the Cuban crisis into the bargaining stage. (UNCL)

Tidbit

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1. GROZNY 24N, 58W 26 Oct 2000 - TANKER
 2. KARL MARX 32N, 40W 26 Oct 2100 - TANKER
 3. MIR 34N, 20W 26 Oct 1400 - T
 4. BALAKLAVA IN ENGLISH 26 Oct ----T " CHANNEL
 5. BELOVODSK 35N, 42W 26 Oct 0600 - DRY
 6. E. FUGACHE 20N, 110W 26 Oct 0800 D
 7. VOLKEREREINDSCHAFT 25N, 80W 26 Oct 2000 SAT PMS
 8. BIALYSTOK 23N, 70W 26 OCTOBER SAT, DRY
 9. KLDNO 38N, 54W 26 OCTOBER SAT DRY

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*Background Material
for 27 October*